



CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION UPDATE December 1, 2011

Fall CTE Data Collection continues

The fall CTE data collection began October 1st and **ends on December 31, 2011**. The fall CTE data collection is a follow-up to last year's Spring CTE data collection. Students identified as CTE Concentrators who graduated last year (2010-2011 school year) must be contacted between October 1 and December 31 and have their current post-graduation status identified in the Achievement In Montana (AIM) data system. Schools who receive funding from the Carl D. Perkins federal grant program are required to complete this fall follow-up collection.

Instructions for completing the CTE data collection are located on the OPI Secondary CTE web page listed under 'Data Collections' located here: http://www.opi.mt.gov/programs/CTAE/CTE.html#gpm1_6 as well as the OPI AIM Web page.

Questions regarding the CTE data collection should be directed to the AIM Helpdesk at 1-877-424-6681 (toll-free) or e-mail opiainhelp@mt.gov. Questions regarding Carl D. Perkins should be directed to Diana Fiedler, Perkins Accountability Specialist at 406.444.9019 or e-mail dfiedler@mt.gov.

Agriculture Education

This fall has been very busy for Ag programs. In addition to the local and district Career Development events, we had National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, with over 55,000 in attendance. Shortly after that, Ramey Lunceford, the FFA Foundation and Billings area Ag teachers presented the Student Ag Expo in Billings for the first time ever. There were nearly 1,000 FFA members involved in Career Development events and Leadership workshops. The event was a huge success.

On November 28th and 29th sessions were held in Sidney, Great Falls, Havre, Shepherd, Missoula and Lewistown for Ag Programs to again complete the program assessment based on the National Quality Program Standards. For each school the AG Teacher, an administrator and an advisory council member worked together on the online assessment. By completing the assessment each Ag Program qualified for \$500, with an additional \$1,000 coming once the Budget and Budget Narrative are approved for the Ag Program Improvement Plan. Funding for this initiative was part of Advancing Ag Education from the State Legislature. The National Quality Standards (which were adopted by Montana Ag Teachers as State Standards too) can be seen at <https://ffa.learn.com/learncenter.asp?id=178418>.

The winter Ag Teacher meeting will be January 28th in Lewistown.

FFA

Over 1,000 FFA and 4-H members descended on Billings Nov. 3-5 for the first ever Student Ag Expo. This event included the annual NILE livestock judging contest, the Montana Leadership conference, the State FFA Floriculture contest, and the former MSU Ag Days judging events, saving the teachers at least two weekends of travel.

Two weeks before the Expo, over 600 Montana FFA members attended the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis. Sixteen teams competed for national awards with the Missoula FFA Chapter placing 4th in the



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Environmental and Natural Resources Career Development Event, earning a Gold award. 10 other chapters received Silver awards and 5 earned a Bronze award. Forty members received their American FFA Degree, the highest award that can be awarded to any member.

The State FFA officers will be traveling the state visiting each chapter during their winter break from college classes, conducting leadership workshops for the 85 FFA chapters and 2,500 members.

**FFA information submitted by Bill Jimmerson, Montana FFA Association, Phone: 406.994.7050;
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Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Brad King

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Business Education

The month of November has been a busy time for Montana's business and marketing education professionals.

Many secondary business and marketing teachers attended the Big Sky Pathways Next Steps Workshops in Billings, Miles City, and Missoula. During these professional development events, they were able to build upon and establish new relationships with their postsecondary counterparts from MSU-Billings College of Technology, Miles Community College, Dawson Community College, and the UM-Missoula College of Technology.

The collaboration between these dynamic groups of secondary and postsecondary professionals has resulted in great discussions regarding program development and outcomes at both levels as well as working to increase college and career readiness for all students as they make the transitions from high school to college and from college to the workforce.

While the Big Sky Pathways Next Steps Workshops end in December with workshops being held in Helena with UM-Helena College of Technology and at Fairmont Hot Springs with Gallatin College Programs and Montana Tech College of Technology the first week of December, the work will continue throughout the year and positive effects on students will last their lifetime.

December kicks off the beginning of Montana's Business Professionals of America competitive season as members attend their region's leadership conference.

Montana BPA's first regional leadership conference will be Region 7 on Monday, December 5 in Baker with Regions 4 and 6 holding their leadership conferences just before the Christmas break. Below are the dates and locations for the eight regional leadership conference

- Region 1: January 9, 2012 in Kalispell at Flathead Community College
- Region 2: January 9, 2012 in Missoula at UM-Missoula College of Technology
- Region 3: January 16, 2012 in Great Falls at CM Russell High School
- Region 4: December 19, 2011 in Helena at UM-Helena College of Technology
- Region 5: January 9, 2012 in Livingston at Park High School
- Region 6: December 19-20, 2011 in Billings at MSU-Billings College of Technology
- Region 8: January 18, 2012 in Sidney at Sidney High School



Montana DECA

As we get into December, Montana DECA is beginning to gear up for the 2012 State Conference, held February 12-14th in Helena. Registration packets have gone out to advisors and students are beginning to prepare for their competitions.

In addition to thinking about the State Conference, some DECA chapters across Montana are getting the opportunity to attend regional and/or national DECA conferences across the nation. Whitefish DECA recently had 28 students attend the Western Region Leadership Conference in San Diego, CA. The students who attended the conference were able to choose from more than 60 workshops and activities that helped them to receive specialized training in Finance & Investing, Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Sports Entertainment, Technology and other business related topics. In addition to workshops, the conference also had a mini-competition for students to test their knowledge and skills against 1500 students from 14 states. Three students from Whitefish finished in the Top 3 in their competitions. Nathan Boone was awarded 1st Place in Principles of Business and Natalie Gayner and Mackenzie Thomas were each awarded a 3rd Place finish in Principles of Hospitality & Tourism. Congratulations to these students for an outstanding performance!!

Glacier High School DECA will be attending the New York Experience in New York City. At this conference students explore fashion merchandising, tour and learn the history of the Wall Street financial district (including Ground Zero), hear from tourist attraction marketing experts, and much more.

Montana DECA recently announced the winner of the National Conference Pin Design Contest. Tanner Everard from Missoula Sentinel High School, produced the winning design and will receive a \$50 first place prize. We had nearly 10 contest entries and they were all outstanding.

Finally, December is the deadline for the DECA State Conference Program Design Contest. The winner of this competition will also receive a \$50 prize for their hard work and creativity. **Montana DECA information submitted by Montana DECA State Advisor, Erin Weisgerber. E-mail: erinweisgerber@yahoo.com.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Family and Consumer Sciences Education

Family and Consumer Sciences educators have continued to work on Big Sky Pathways this past month by attending workshops in Billings, Miles City and Missoula in conjunction with post-secondary programs at UM COT-Missoula, and Dawson Community College-Glendive. FCS educators continued to build and improve pathways in the following areas:

- Hospitality & Tourism
 - Culinary Arts
- Human Services
 - Early Childhood Education

During the first weekend in November, approximately 35 Montana FCCLA members from Three Forks, Ennis, Colstrip, Poplar, Plevna, Dillon, Terry and Sunburst attended the Montana FCCLA Leadership Institute held in Bozeman. This institute, organized by Cathe Felz, Three Forks FCCLA Chapter Adviser, and Martha Northway,



Ennis FCCLA Chapter Adviser, was made possible in part by a grant from Youth Service America. Members in attendance received leadership and service learning training, and each will be responsible for completing a service learning project in their communities during this school year.

In mid-November, numerous Montana FCCLA chapters traveled to Denver, Colorado, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Atlanta, Georgia to attend the National Cluster Meetings "Raising the Bar." During the two day meetings, members and advisers had the opportunity to participate in educational workshops, learn ways to stay involved in our organization, meet members from around the United States, and listen to motivational speakers.

Seven Montana FCCLA Chapters including Scobey, Forsyth, Shepherd, Jefferson (Boulder), Valier, Three Forks, Flathead (Kalispell), and Absarokee were awarded a \$2,000 mini-grant from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey to complete chapter projects on bullying in their schools and communities.

Each Montana FCCLA District continues to hold their Fall Leadership Meeting. These meetings focus on leadership development, educational workshops, and new district officer elections. The dates are listed below:

December 6, 2011 – FCCLA District 2 Fall Meeting, Three Forks, MT
December 7, 2011 – FCCLA District 6/7 Fall Meeting, Missoula, MT
December 14, 2011 – FCCLA District 5 Fall Meeting, Glendive, MT

Respectfully submitted,

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Health Sciences Education

Project Lead the Way (PLTW®) programs

The Billings Career Center and Bozeman High School currently offers an **ENGINEERING program** and Bozeman, Helena and Capital High Schools currently offer a **BIOMEDICAL program**. Big Sky High School (Missoula) will also offer a Biomedical program through their new Health Science Academy. Several other schools are contemplating this exciting program for 2012-2013 as well.

Project Lead the Way is a non-profit group that identified the need to create Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) curriculum in Engineering and Biomedical Science. Although the actual curriculum is free of charge, schools sign an agreement with PLTW to use the lesson plans, materials and training identified for the curriculum which has a cost.

So what is so different? PLTW teaches students to understand systems, build systems, and evaluate systems in order to find solutions and solve problems. PLTW is comprised of three elements: curricula, professional development, and partnerships. These elements are coherently organized and interconnected to produce rigorous and relevant learning for students and for teachers. The curriculum's foundation is based on relevance and rigor. By making the curriculum relevant, learning becomes accessible to ALL students. In a PLTW classroom instructors answer the most difficult questions a student can ask on a daily basis: "Why do I have to learn this?" or "When am I ever going to use this?" PLTW does this by providing students with the opportunities to apply their new found knowledge or skills to a relevant problem/challenge through student-centered, project-based learning. The curriculum also provides a unique balance between content learning and skill acquisition.



This balance prepares students for options after their secondary education, whether they want to secure a job out of high school or pursue higher education.

If you would like additional information about either of the Project Lead the Way programs, please contact the PLTW State Leader, Renee Harris.

Montana HOSA

Fall Leadership Conference

The HOSA Fall Leadership Conference took place Monday, October 24th in Helena at the Montana Learning Center. The State Officers planned the conference and it was a great day of activities for 50 Chapter Officers from around the state. The State Officers led workshops for their peers on topics such as leadership, membership, program of work, fundraising, and competitive events. Additionally, the State HOSA Advisor led a workshop for all the advisors that covered logistics for the year, new updates, and provided an opportunity for the advisors to network. The importance of leadership skills and running for a state officer position were also covered. It was a great day for Montana HOSA!

New Chapters

Since last month, we have added a HOSA chapter at Harlowton High School thanks to a great partnership with Wheatland Memorial Healthcare. Ray Hetherington will serve as the Chapter Advisor, welcome!

Over the past few months we have been working on a new concept for HOSA. Unfortunately, the rural nature of our great state makes it difficult to start HOSA chapters in our smaller schools with over extended staff members and limited resources. To try to address an unmet need, we have decided to initiate a "virtual" chapter for students without access to a local HOSA chapter. Membership with this chapter will provide students with opportunities to interact digitally with other students and health care professionals across the state. They will also have access to the Montana Virtual HOSA website which provides valuable resources for developing knowledge, skills, and career planning. Dawn Drahos, Medical Science Instructor at CMR High School, will serve as the Virtual Chapter Advisor. This is a very exciting endeavor for Montana HOSA, and we hope to see membership within this chapter meet the needs in our rural communities. **Montana HOSA information submitted by State HOSA Advisor, Bergen Morehouse Phone: 406.683.2790**

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Respectfully submitted,

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Industrial, Trades and Technology Education

No update at this time.

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